

8 December 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
✓ Deputy Director for Support
Deputy Director for Plans
Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT: Completion of the CIA Historical Program

1. I have recently reviewed the progress made to date with respect to our historical program, and have found that it is not progressing as rapidly in some areas as I had hoped. It is important that all histories comprising the "catching up" phase - the period before 1965 - be completed no later than 31 December 1971. This suspense date applies to the histories in the individual programs of your Directorates as well as to those in the overall program.

2. As most of you and certainly your individual Historical Board chairmen know, Dr. Ehrmann and his Historical Staff stand ready to assist you in the realization of this goal through consultation, examination of outlines, search and identification of sources, and the review of individual drafts. Your personal support is, however, desired and required if we are to meet the objectives of this important program.

3. May I request that you review your programs to insure that projects have been established for all significant aspects of your history. In those instances where an individual has not been specifically named as the officer responsible for completing a history, please designate an appropriate officer and furnish his name to Dr. Ehrmann no later than 7 January 1970. In those cases where a suspense date for an individual history has not been assigned, this should also be done and Dr. Ehrmann advised accordingly.


4. I realize that the demands upon your time are very great, and that this program is not the most urgent or important thing on your platter. At the same time I feel quite sure

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that we do have the personnel now who can be made available to do this work -- and to do it well. I doubt very seriously that this will be the case after 31 December 1971. This is why it is so important to complete the "catching up" phase by that time.

5. Your very strong support is earnestly requested.

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L. K. White
Executive Director-Comptroller